

Seoladh _____

Dáta / /

A Aire dhil,

Tá mé ag scríobh chugat chun mo chuid tacáíochta don fheachtas Ghaelcholáiste nua a bhunú i nDeisceart Bhaile Átha Cliath a chur in iúl duit. Tá iarratas curtha isteach cheanna féin chuig an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta ag lorg aitheantais don scoil seo.

I gcomhthéacs moltaí an rialtais chun sochaí dhá-theangach a chruthú (Famleigh, Nollaig 19ú 2006), agus i bhfianaise an gá atá ann le scoil dara leibhéal lán-Ghaeilge i mBaile Átha Cliath dár gcuid páistí (mar atá le feiceáil ón suirbhé deireannach ar pháistí ghaelscoile), impím ort tosaíocht a thabhairt don iarratas chun an Gaelcholáiste nua a bhunú.

Deir an Roinn go mbrathnóinn líon na n-áiteanna meánscoilíochta atá ar fáil ar chursaí daonracha. É seo san áireamh, tabhair faoi deara na pointí seo a leanas: -

- Tá patrún ag an scoil nua molta, comh maith le foirgneamh oiriúnach. Níl uainn ach aitheantas ón roinn.
- Tá méidiú mór ar éileamh ar áiteanna i meánscoileanna, idir scoileanna Béarla agus Gaeilge, i ndeisceart Átha Cliath. Is soiléir seo ó na liostaí feithimh atá ag fás i ngach meánscoil sa cheanntar.
- Tá na scoileanna deontasacha agus scoileanna an stáit faoi bhrú mór i ndeisceart Átha Cliath. Beidh ar an stáit áiteanna meánscolaíochta a chur ar fail gan moill chun an éileamh seo a shásamh. Dá dtabharfadh an roinn aitheantas don Gaelcholáiste nua molta béadh freagra ann do dhá fhadhb – an éileamh ar meánscolaíocht tré mheán na Gaeilge agus an éileamh ar meánscolaíocht i gcoitinne.

I am writing to you to express my support for the proposed new Gaelcholáiste for South Dublin. There is currently a request for recognition with The Department of Education and Science.

In the context of the proposals by the government to create a bi-lingual society in Ireland (Famleigh, December 19th 2006) and in the light of the clear need for another Irish language second level school for our children in Dublin (as indicated by our survey of Gaelscoil pupils), I ask you to give priority to the request for the establishment of the new Gaelcholáiste.

With regard to the department's position regarding the current review of demand for secondary school places based on demographics please note the following in respect of the proposed Gaelcholáiste:-

- *The proposed school has a patron and a building and is simply awaiting departmental approval*
- *South Dublin is experiencing a growth in demand for secondary school places, with demand for English and Irish language school places increasing. This is evidenced in the lengthening waiting lists held by all secondary schools in the area. Population growth is a key factor for the department in determining demand for secondary schools. In South Dublin this growth is demonstrated among the school-going population, which is rising quickly and is coupled with a shift in demand away from fee-paying schools due to the economic downturn.*
- *Given the pressure that voluntary and state schools are under in South Dublin it is inevitable that the state will be obliged to provide additional secondary school places. Given the massive increase in Irish language primary school places, which is rapidly manifesting itself as demand for secondary school places, why would the department not sanction a Gaelcholáiste? This would supply both the required additional secondary school places and also satisfy the need to ensure that Irish language secondary education is available to children graduating from Gaelscoileanna.*

Is mise le meas,
